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Director

Department of Pesticide Regulation



Gray Davis
Governor

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Secretary, California
Environmental
Protection Agency

DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION PESTICIDE REGISTRATION AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes January 17, 2003

Committee Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Claudia Moore, Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB)
Walt Shannon, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
Rebecca Sisco, University of California-Davis, IR-4 Program
Brian Finlayson, Department of Fish and Game
Barbara Todd, Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Lynn Baker, Air Resources Board (ARB)
Tobi Jones, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)
Rupali Das, Department of Health Services (DHS)

Visitors in Attendance:

James Robertson, Clark Pest Control	Jeanne Martin, DPR
Jim Bowyer, Clark Pest Control	Eileen Mahoney, DPR
Pat Minyard, CDFA	Mac Takeda, DPR
John Pearson, Compliance Services International	Nan Gorder, DPR
Vicki Kramer, DHS	Marylou Verder-Carlos, DPR
John Sanders, DPR	John Inouye, DPR
Kathy Brunetti, DPR	Dennise Webster, DPR
Ralph Shields, DPR	Charles Hunter, DPR

1. Introductions and Committee Business – Tobi Jones, Chairperson

- About 24 people attended the meeting.
- No corrections were made to the minutes of the November 15, 2002 meeting, as determined by solicitation of committee members after the close of the meeting.

2. Preparing for the West NileVirus–Vicki Kramer, DHS

Dr. Kramer provided an update on the West Nile virus (WNV), a mosquito-borne disease that was first introduced into the United States in 1999. WNV has now spread to 43 states; there were over 4000 human cases detected in 2002, including 160 deaths. Horses and birds are severely impacted by this disease. In California, one locally acquired case of WNV was detected in a Los Angeles County resident in August 2002. California's surveillance program for WNV virus includes the testing of dead birds, mosquitoes,

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sentinel chickens, and suspect human and horse cases. Other than the one human case, WNV activity was not identified in California. Local and state agencies have been preparing for the introduction and establishment of WNV in California since 2000, and anticipate that California is relatively well prepared to respond to the anticipated introduction of WNV in 2003.

3. DPR Surface Water Policy—John Sanders, DPR

John Sanders discussed DPR's Surface Water Quality Policy. The increasing detection of pesticides in surface water and subsequent interaction with the Water Quality Control Boards led DPR to develop a policy to describe the process DPR will use to respond to detection of pesticides in surface water. The first draft of the policy was developed over a year ago, and the Water Boards have reviewed the draft policy twice during the past year. The draft policy is in final DPR management reviews and should be released in February. If you have any questions, call John Sanders, Chief of the Environmental Monitoring Branch, at (916) 324-4155.

4. Mexican Fruit Fly Eradication Project—Pat Minyard, CDFA

On November 21, 2002, the State of Arizona notified CDFA that a grapefruit processor in Tempe, Arizona had found maggots in juice that had been squeezed from California grapefruit. The maggots were identified as Mexican Fruit Fly. The grapefruit was subsequently traced back to a grove in Valley Center, San Diego County. Follow-up trapping and larval sampling revealed an intensive widespread infestation of Mexican Fruit Fly in commercial grapefruit and avocados. CDFA immediately established an eradication project. A 117-square mile quarantine has been established, and within that quarantine zone, a 28-square mile aerial spray zone has also been established. The area is predominately commercial agriculture with some rural residential intermingled. Fixed wing aircraft under contract to CDFA is conducting the spraying. Treatments will be applied every 10 to 14 days for two life cycles--approximately 12 to 15 treatments extending through late spring to early summer 2003.

This is the first time that Spinosad, an organic insecticide manufactured by Dow AgroSciences, has been used in a wide area exotic fruit fly eradication project. There are numerous organic growers within the aerial spray and quarantine zones. The use of an organic compound greatly lessens the economic impact of the eradication project and quarantine on organic growers.

5. PREC Members Forum: Overview of the Air Resources Board—Lynn Baker, ARB

Lynn Baker gave a presentation on ARB's involvement and interests in pesticide issues. The mission of ARB is "to promote and protect public health, welfare, and ecological

resources through the effective and efficient reduction of air pollutants while recognizing and considering the effects on the economy of the state." ARB is also responsible for preparing the State Implementation Plan (SIP) to attain federal ambient air quality standards. ARB establishes emission standards for mobile sources (motor vehicles), and provides oversight and technical assistance to the 35 local air districts in California. The local air districts have the authority for issuing and enforcing permits to stationary sources of emissions.

ARB has two primary areas of interest regarding pesticides. The first area of interest is toxic air contaminant (TAC) pesticide monitoring, which ARB is required to conduct in support of DPR's TAC program. The second is coordinating with DPR regarding emissions of volatile organic compounds from pesticides as this relates to the SIP.

ARB also works with DPR on other air related pesticide issues including permitting of commodity fumigation operations by local air districts and county agricultural commissioners, reviewing of air dispersion modeling for fumigant permit conditions, an interagency community health investigation in Lompoc, and a comprehensive investigation conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, in McFarland, California.

6. Update on Meeting Time—Tobi Jones, DPR

Tobi had canvassed members of the committee by email about their preferences on the meeting time for the committee. Of those members responding, a majority stated their preference for leaving the meeting time on Friday. Based on that response, the committee will continue to meet on the third Friday every other month.

7. Agenda Items for Next Meeting and Location – Tobi Jones, DPR

The next meeting will be held on Friday, March 21, 2003, at 10:00 a.m., in the Sierra Hearing Room located on the second floor of the Cal/EPA building.

8. Closing Comments – Tobi Jones, DPR

The meeting was adjourned.